

## BOOK NOTICE

*A Field Guide to the Butterflies of North America, East of the Great Plains.* By Alexander B. Klots. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1951.  $7\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. XVI + 349 p., 40 pl., 9 line cuts, green cloth binding, \$3.75.

This book, one of The Peterson Field Guide Series, by Dr. Alexander B. Klots, a skilled lepidopterist, who teaches biology in the College of the City of New York and who has long been a student of the taxonomy of Lepidoptera, is the most complete and exhaustive guide that has ever appeared.

Part 1 (pages 3-60) covers collecting, preservation, faunal regions, habitats, variations, predators, parasites, protective form and coloration, behavior, life histories, habits, structures, and classification.

Part 2 (pages 63-289) deals with resident butterflies and skippers. For every species known to breed in Eastern North America, there are given, brief larval descriptions, food plants of larvæ, the range of the species, dates, a description of the species, notes on similar species and subspecies, together with common and scientific names. Every important species is excellently illustrated, 247 of them in color.

Part 3 (pages 293-328) includes and principles of taxonomy, references to the literature and collections, and a checklist of butterflies and skippers. And in addition there are indices to general subjects and technical terms to larval food plants, and to the butterflies and skippers.

This brief summary does not by any means convey the sense of satisfaction and adequacy that comes from a close examination of Dr. Klots' book, which is an authentic presentation in compact form of innumerable facts about butterflies—all of interest, not only to beginners but to older students. With it, one can identify practically every butterfly in Eastern North America.

In this world, the skill, patience and knowledge of a few, contribute greatly to the comfort and happiness of many. In this particular instance the skill and knowledge of Dr. Klots will make the road easier and more attractive for students and teachers. His book is both readable and scientifically accurate, and it has been needed for many years.—H. B. W.